

each of the desired gifts;

a database storage system that stores and retrieves the first and second information about the registrant and the unique identifier associated with the particular merchant having each of the desired gifts; and

a display system that displays the list of potential gifts for a particular registrant and information about the particular merchants the desired gifts are from, including the unique identifier associated with the particular merchant having each of the desired gifts, in response to an inquiry from a prospective purchaser.

15. A multi-merchant gift registry system for registering items, that are selected by a registrant from items available from a plurality of merchants that are located in an area, as possible gifts for the registrant, the multi-merchant gift registry system comprising:

first data entry means through which first information, including at least a registrant name, are entered into said gift registry system;

second data entry means capable of receiving second information, including data identifying potential gifts which said registrant has selected and a unique merchant identifier associated with each of said potential gifts;

database storage means for storing and retrieving said first information and said second information; and

display means for displaying registrant gift data, that identifies at least one of said potential gifts for a particular registrant and the particular merchant associated with said at least one of said potential gifts, in response to an inquiry from a prospective purchaser.

20. A multi-merchant gift registry system for registering items, that are selected by a registrant from items available from a plurality of merchants that are located in an area, as possible gifts for the registrant, the multi-merchant gift registry system comprising:

at least one registrant terminal device comprising:

first data entry means through which first information, including at least a registrant name, are entered into said gift registry system,

second data entry means capable of receiving second information, including data identifying potential gifts which said registrant has selected and a unique merchant identifier associated with each of said potential gifts;

server means in communication with said at least one registrant terminal device, comprising:

database storage means for storing and retrieving said first information and said second information, and

display means for displaying registrant gift data, that identifies at least one of said potential gifts for a particular registrant and the particular merchant associated with said at least one of said potential gifts, in response to an inquiry from a prospective purchaser.

25. A method of operating a multi-merchant gift registry system for registering items, that are selected by a registrant from items available from a plurality of merchants that are located in an area, as possible gifts for the registrant, the multi-merchant gift registry system comprising at least one registrant terminal device for enabling a registrant to enter registrant gift data into said gift registry system and a server to receive and store said registrant gift data, said method of operating a multi-merchant gift registry system, comprising the steps of:

entering first data, including at least a registrant name, into said gift registry system via said registrant terminal device;

entering second data, including data identifying potential gifts which said registrant has selected and a unique merchant identifier associated with each of said potential gifts, into said gift registry system via said registrant terminal device;

storing and retrieving said first information and said second information in a database; and